

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINAI 00672 291309Z
ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3829
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS SINAI 00672

DEPT FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DENNIS MULLIN, CORRESPONDENT FOR US NEWS
AND WORLD REPORT

1. DENNIS MULLIN, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR US NEWS AND
WORLD REPORT, VISITED SFM FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS ON MARCH 27.
SINCE HE DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL EARLY AFTERNOON, HE DID NOT
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT ONE OF THE US WATCH STATIONS,
AS WE HAD PLANNED.

2. MR. MULLIN HAD VISITED THE TEMPORARY BASE CAMP ABOUT TWO
YEARS AGO. HE EXPLAINED THAT, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED
BY US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, HIS STORY ON THAT VISIT HAD
ATTRACTED AN EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE READERSHIP. HIS EDITOR HAD
DECIDED THAT IT WAS NOW TIME FOR AN UPDATE, PARTICULARLY IN
VIEW OF THE PROMINENT ARTICLE ON SFM WHICH HAD APPEARED ON THE
FRONT PAGE OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ON FEBRUARY 24, 1978.

3. THE DIRECTOR GAVE MR. MULLIN A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING
ON THE FUNCTIONS OF SFM AND ITS COMPONENTS, AND ANSWERED A
LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. MR. MULLIN EXPRESSED A SPECIAL INTEREST
IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE
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STAFF. THE REASON FOR THIS INTEREST, HE SAID, IS THAT DURING
HIS LAST VISIT A NUMBER OF CONTRACT PERSONNEL HAD COMPLAINED TO
HIM THAT SFM HAD NOT PROVIDED THE AMENITIES THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED
WHEN THEY WERE RECRUITED. SOME EVEN HAD LEFT NOTES CONTAINING
THEIR GRIEVANCES IN HIS CAR BECAUSE THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN
PREVENTED FROM SEEING HIM. DURING A WALKING TOUR OF THE CAMP,
WE CONCENTRATED ON GIVING MR. MULLIN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO

AS MANY EMPLOYEES AS HE DESIRED. NOT A SINGLE CRITICAL COMMENT
WAS MADE TO HIM. HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE RANGE OF
ACTIVITIES/SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND IN THE
HOBBY AREA. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT HE INDICATED THAT
OBVIOUS EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO MAKE LIFE AT SFM AS NORMAL
AND PLEASANT AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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